



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

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PHOENIX MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FAILING TO FILE TAX RETURN

PHOENIX -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that John Delo Nichols, 63, of Phoenix pleaded guilty here on April 26, 2005 to willfully failing to make an income tax return to the Internal Revenue Service in 1999 as required by law, even though Nichols had sufficient income. Nichols had been charged with violating Title 26, U.S. Code, Section 7203, Willful Failure to File a Return.

Nichols apparently received more than \$565,000 in 1999. According to the plea agreement, Nichols admitted he had received a substantial amount of money as a result of his activities promoting the "Freedom Church of Revelation" (FCR) during 1999. Nichols admitted some of the money came as the result of "seminars" conducted to promote FCR. The plea indicates approximately \$70,000 was written to Nichols personally or to cash. Nichols states that the tax loss resulting from his failure to file a return was more than \$40,000.

A conviction for Failure to File a Tax Return carries a maximum penalty of not more than one year in prison, a \$25,000.00 fine or both. Sentencing is set before Judge Paul G. Rosenblat on July 11, 2005 at 9:30 a.m.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by special agents of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The prosecution is being handled by Daniel Drake, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-04-350-PHX-PGR
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